

Application No.: 10/802,581

Amendment and Response dated January 8, 2008

Reply to Final Office Action of September 10, 2007

Docket No.: 903-101 RCE

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A fibre-reinforced building article having fire protection properties, ~~comprising consisting essentially of~~ a matrix of a binding material ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising an aluminous cement, a carboxylic ether polymer based plasticizer, a fugitive material, filler, and alkaliresistant glass fibers, and at least one fiber layer of alkaliresistant glass fibers, incorporated in said matrix.

Claim 2. (Original): The building article according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the plasticizer with respect to the aluminous cement is in the range of 3-5%.

Claim 3. (Original): The building article according to claim 1, wherein the filler comprises granular waste materials.

Claim 4. (Original): The building article according to claim 1, wherein the plasticizer comprises a carboxylate ether polymer having long side chains attached to the backbone of the polymer.

Claim 5. (Original): The building article according to claim 1, wherein the fugitive material comprises sawdust.

Claim 6. (Original): The building article according to claim 1, comprising at least two spaced apart co-planar fiber layers, wherein the distance between these fiber layers is larger than the distance of a fibrous layer to the surface of the building article.

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Claim 7. (Original): The building article according to claim 1, wherein at least one layer of alkali-resistant glass fibers comprises parallel glass rovings.

Claim 8. (Original): The building article according to claim 6, wherein the building article has the shape of a flat panel.

Claim 9. (Original): The building article according to claim 1, wherein the building article has the shape of a building brick or building block.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A method for manufacturing a fibre-reinforced building article having fire protection properties, comprising

casting an aqueous mixture of binding material consisting essentially of comprising an aluminous cement, a fugitive material, filler, alkali-resistant fibers and a carboxylic ether polymer based plasticizer, into a mould, and

positioning additional alkali-resistant glass fibers in at least one fiber layer in the mould during casting, in order to obtain a preform and allowing the thus obtained preform to dry.

Claim 11. (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the weight ratio of the plasticizer with respect to the aluminous cement is in the range of 3-5%.

Claim 12. (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the plasticizer comprises a carboxylate ether polymer having relatively long side chains attached to the backbone of the polymer.

Claim 13. (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the filler comprise granular waste material.

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Claim 14. (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the fugitive material comprises sawdust.

Claim 15. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the mould has the shape of a rectangular box having a small depth.

Claim 16. (Original): The method according to claim 10, comprising the steps of feeding a mould, positioning a water impermeable foil in the mould, casting a first outer layer of binding material in the mould, positioning at least one layer of glass fibers in the mould, casting at least one further layer of binding material in the mould, and positioning a water impermeable foil over the layer of binding material last casted.

Claim 17. (New): A fibre-reinforced building article having fire protection properties, comprising:

at least two spaced apart co-planar fiber layers of alkaliresistant glass fibers; and
a matrix of a binding material comprising an aluminous cement, a carboxylic ether polymer based plasticizer, a fugitive material, filler, and alkaliresistant glass fibers, wherein
the at least two fiber layers of alkaliresistant glass fibers are incorporated in said matrix.

Claim 18. (New): The building article of claim 17, wherein the matrix of the binding material consists essentially of an aluminous cement, a carboxylic ether polymer based plasticizer, a fugitive material, filler, and alkaliresistant glass fibers.